

this paper using the PTO's Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) website on or about September 8, 2005 (see the attached PAIR records printed on September 8, 2005, September 15, 2005 and October 13, 2005).

Applicants' representative initially contacted the Examiner by telephone regarding the status of the Request on October 20, 2005. In a return telephone call on or about October 28, 2005, the Examiner indicated that she would act on the Request in about two weeks.

Applicants' representative contacted the Examiner to follow-up on this matter on or about November 17, 2005, at which time the Examiner indicated that the entry of the Request as a "Miscellaneous Incoming Letter" was improper and therefore the paper was not showing up on her docket as a paper filed after a final Action so that she could work on it. The Examiner further indicated that she would have this corrected and respond to the Request.

Applicants' representative contacted the Examiner again to follow-up on this matter on or about November 30, 2005. The Examiner indicated that the issue had not yet been resolved internally, but that she would submit another request to have the PALM entry corrected so that she could respond to the Request filed on August 16, 2005.

Applicants' representative contacted the Examiner again on or about December 5, 2005 to follow-up on this matter. The Examiner responded on or about December 8, 2005 and indicated that the correction should be made within the next day or so and that she would most likely withdraw the finality of the Office Action dated June 16, 2005. The Examiner further indicated that she would issue a response before December 16, 2005, (which is the last day of the maximum extendable time period for Applicants response to the Final Office Action dated June 16, 2005).

Applicants' representative checked the status of the above-identified application on the PTO's PAIR website on December 14, 2005 (see the attached IFW record printed on the same date) and subsequently telephoned the Examiner and left a voice mail message requesting issuance of a response to the Request to Withdraw Finality previously filed on August 16, 2005, prior to the last day date of December 16, 2005. By return telephone call on December 16, 2005, the Examiner indicated that she had issued an Action and withdrew finality of the Office Action dated June 16, 2005 and turned the Action in on December 15, 2005. , Applicants have not yet received a the new Action and according to PAIR, no response has been issued as evidenced by the attached PAIR record printed on December 16, 2005.

In view of the above, Applicants are submitting herewith a Petition for Extension of Time with authorization for the PTO to charge the fee for a three (3) month extension of time if necessary to extend the time period for reply to the Office Action dated June 16, 2005 from September 16, 2005 to December 16, 2005, to maintain pendency of the present application in view of the divisional application being filed on the same date. **However, Applicants respectfully submit that such petition would not be necessary if the finality of the Office Action dated June 16, 2005 is withdrawn and a new Office Action is issued. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request a refund of the extension fee if charged if the finality of the Office Action dated June 16, 2005, is withdrawn and a new Office Action is issued.**

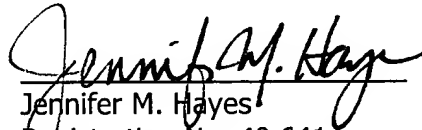
Applicants further submit that Applicants have acted reasonably and any unreasonable delay is due to the fault of the PTO. Therefore, Applicants should not be charged with any reduction in patent term adjustment in relation to this matter.

7. Results of Interview: None.

It is respectfully submitted that the instant STATEMENT OF SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW complies with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§1.2 and 1.133 and MPEP §713.04.

It is believed that no petition or fee is required. However, if the USPTO deems otherwise, Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee, except for the Issue Fee, for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,


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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: December 16, 2005

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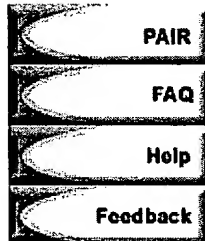
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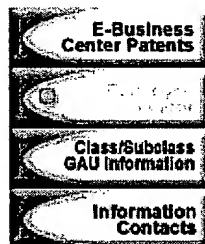
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